

Interracial News Service

A DIGEST OF TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RELATIONS

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NON-SEGREGATED SCHOOLS

An Issue in the Courts*

The decision of the Supreme Court to postpone re-argument of the five school segregation cases from October 12 until December 7 is the best thing that could have happened. . . .

Thus a badly needed two-month grace period has been given both the NAACP and the government to complete the exhaustive research needed to answer the five questions posed by the court on June 3.

Only careful and studious research can supply the answer to the court's request for evidence that the Congress which submitted and the state legislatures and conventions which ratified the 14th amendment contemplated or understood that it would abolish segregation in public schools.

A second question is whether it is within the judicial power to interpret the amendment as abolishing segregation "of its own force" or whether the court in construing the amendment, has the power to abolish segregation in the schools.

The other three questions deal with the kind of decree the court should issue if it should hold that segregation in public schools violates the 14th amendment.

"These questions", Mr. Brownell (Attorney General) said in seeking the delay, "require intensive study of a large range of legal and historical materials."

The truth of that statement can be attested to by Thurgood Marshall, chief NAACP counsel.

He has found it necessary to seek the services of ten scholars, experts in history, law and education, to help determine the status of schools in the various states during the Reconstruction period.

Also to be determined are the history and politics of the 14th amendment and the Civil Rights Acts in an effort to learn what the framers of this legislation sought to accomplish.

Further research and study are required to determine whether it was the understanding the 14th amendment (intended) was to give full political and civil equality to the newly freed citizens.

In addition, Mr. Marshall must be prepared to present a plan under which public schools can be integrated with emphasis on the ease with which integration has

been accomplished in those states where segregation has been ended. . . . (*Afro-American*, August 15).

In Topeka, Kans.

Topeka's Board of Public Education wiped out discrimination in its elementary schools . . . during a debate on the providing of bus transportation for Negro children.

The sudden move came just as the board was on the verge of approving the transportation request when the president of the board, Jacob Dickinson, introduced a resolution calling for an end to all segregation.

The board approved the president's action by a vote of five to one.

The ending of jim crow in the elementary schools of Topeka occurred during a session which lasted well into the early hours of morning. The man who voted against the ending of jim crow felt that the move was ill-timed. . . .

There has been no segregation in Topeka's high or junior high schools for a number of years. In addition, the board has been faced with a Supreme Court suit on the segregation issue that is still pending. (*Pittsburgh-Courier*, September 12).

In Cairo, Ill.

The second year of non-segregation in the city's schools opened (recently) as more than 100 colored pupils attended formerly all-white schools with no reported incidents.

The peaceful registration and community acceptance were a far cry from a virtual reign of terror and violence which accompanied initial efforts of colored parents and the local NAACP branch to end segregation.

On Jan. 28, 1952, after placing written applications for transfers to schools nearest their homes, 84 colored pupils, accompanied by their parents, were refused admittance to the all-white schools. . . .

Illinois school statutes prohibit segregation in public schools on the basis of race, religion or nationality. An amendment to the Distributive Fund Appropriation Bill, known as the Jenkins Amendment, states that state-aid funds may be withheld from any school district that segregated students according to race or color.

The matter in these pages is presented for the reader's information. Unless so stated, it is not to be construed as reflecting the attitudes or positions of the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations or of The National Council of Churches.

State-aid funds to the Cairo school district and all other school districts in Alexander County were held up for several months during the spring of 1952, and since that time have been released only with the approval of NAACP attorneys. . . . (*Afro-American*, September 12).

In Cincinnati, Ohio

Cincinnati, Ohio schools will be completely mixed when they open in September. . . .

Responsible for the smooth operation of mixing the schools is Superintendent M. Coulter, formerly of Dayton, Ohio.

No colored teachers lose their jobs in the new school program. One of them, a vice-principal, has been promoted and his staff of teachers is mixed. . . .

Colored and white have always attended the high schools together, but the teachers were white.

The elementary schools were segregated. (*Afro-American*, August 29).

On Military Posts

The Defense Department plans to wipe out segregation in state-operated schools on military posts in two years.

If the states fail to take this action by the fall of 1955, there is a strong possibility the federal government will take over the schools and operate them on a non-racial basis, officials said.

However, Congress, which in the past has objected to any federal "interference" in local school systems, might fight such a move.

President Eisenhower last March ordered integration in all schools completely operated by the federal government. The order only affected schools at Fort Benning, Ga., where segregation will be ended this fall. (*Christian Science Monitor*, August 24).

At The College Level

Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Jr., registered . . . as the first Negro undergraduate student in the history of Louisiana State University.

He was assigned a room in the football stadium which houses freshmen ROTC cadets. . . .

LSU Registrar, Dr. John Hunter, said "We'll treat him the same as anyone else. He'll be able to eat in any cafeteria available to freshmen, attend football games and have all other privileges." (*Pittsburgh-Courier*, September 26).

Because of her life-long belief that there should be no segregation, a 31-year-old white divorcee has enrolled at Philander Smith College . . . (Little Rock,

* "Questions and Answers: The Schools and the Courts" is an informative pamphlet, just off the press, which deals with the issues discussed in this article and others with reference to these particular cases. Available from Southern Regional Council, 63 Auburn Ave., N.E., Atlanta, Ga. Price 15 cents.

Ark.) to wage what she calls a "one woman battle" against Jim Crow.

... Miss Dorothy Martin of Mabelville, Ark., is the first white person to study as a regular student at the all-Negro Methodist college in its 86-year history. . . . (*Chicago-Defender*, September 26).

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Robert C. Clemmons of Durham and Hardy Liston, Jr., of Greensboro . . . became the first Negro students to have applications for admission to North Carolina State College approved. . . .

Qualifications for admittance to North Carolina State require that applicants be natives of North Carolina and that there be no graduate facilities available for them in their special fields at existing Negro institutions in the state. . . . (*Chicago-Defender*, September 26).

HOUSING

In San Francisco

The San Francisco Housing Authority has no right to bar Negroes from any housing project, according to a ruling handed down by the State District Court of Appeals.

The decision knocks out San Francisco Housing Authority's "neighborhood pattern" policy by upholding Superior Court Judge Melvyn I. Cronin's order to the Authority to admit two Negro applicants to the North Beach housing project.

The Court of Appeals held that the housing authority's policy of barring Negroes was unconstitutional because the state agency was "exercising state power to preserve, perpetuate, and enforce a neighborhood racial pattern wherever it decides to locate and build a housing project."

The appellate court's opinion finds the housing authority's policies contrary to the 14th Amendment when it reads:

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." . . .

Once again, a court has thrown the law's shield around a citizen looking for a place to lay his head. So, unless Judge Cronin's orders are stayed by a still higher appeal, the San Francisco Housing Authority . . . must have a policy that will apply the same standards regardless of color or race, and must process Negroes' applications for housing as quickly as those of any other race. (*Christian Science Monitor*, September 3).

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In Chicago

Some thirteen Negroes last week filed suit in Federal Court demanding an immediate end to a ban on colored persons in four Chicago Housing Authority projects.

The suit was in answer to an agreement by CHA commissioners recently to permit non-white families to live in the four

"white projects when it is consistent with the maintenance of law and order." . . .

The (persons) who filed suit felt that the CHA commissioner's agreement is too long range and may never be realized. They point out that as long as there are signs of trouble over Negroes moving into one of the projects, police might decide it is not safe to allow colored to live in the projects. Moreover, it also was pointed out that all a biased person had to do to keep the projects "lily white" was to cause trouble. And this could delay Negro occupancy of the projects indefinitely. . . .

The suit . . . asks \$100,000 damages, on the ground that CHA policy has violated civil rights. . . .

The issue of integration in public housing has been a problem in Chicago for some time. Movement of colored persons into the projects often has been accompanied by violence.

The latest incident occurred at Trumbull Parks homes, one of the four all-white projects in the city, where irate whites paraded and threw stones in protest against a Negro man and his wife moving into the project.

Recently a mob of some 1,200 outraged whites paraded and stormed into a Jewish person's business place in objection to the proprietor's attitude on integration in the project. The Jewish owner also had insisted on serving colored persons in his place. Because of this, the mob burned and destroyed his business. (*The Call*, September 11).

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In Denver

On August 15, 1953, the Denver City Council adopted an ordinance . . . which established a set of requirements for the approval and recording of plats or maps of proposed subdivisions of real property in the city. . . . In addition to a substantial number of technical requirements, the ordinance provides that no plat shall be approved if restrictive covenants appear on the face of the plat.

The effect of this provision is to bar the application of racial or religious restrictive covenants to any future housing developments in Denver. (*Joint Memorandum, American Jewish Committee & Anti-Defamation League*, September 16).

"PANEL OF AMERICANS"

"Panel of Americans," which began . . . (in Los Angeles, Calif.) 11 years ago as an experiment in improving human relations through frank and open discussion of racial and religious differences, has grown to such proportions that it will begin operating . . . (in September) on an expanded nation-wide basis on 17 college campuses in 11 states.

Launched in 1942 by the University of Religious Conference at the University of California at Los Angeles with the aid of a grant from the American Jewish Committee, the panel's volunteer teams of college students have reached more than a million people. . . .

A panel team consists of five college students, each of whom represents a particular racial, religious or cultural group. . . .

Delving into intergroup differences before audiences from 59 to 1,000, the

panel makes every effort to encourage understanding and appreciation of these differences.

Dr. John M. Krumm, chaplain of Columbia University, who heads the recently organized sponsoring group, National Council for the Panel of Americans, said that a panel's objective is to develop unity and accord among the diverse religious and ethnic groups which make up the American nation. (*The Call*, September 4).

RACE COUNSELOR

It is a pity that Dr. Frank S. Horne, head of the race relations service of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, seems slated, on purely political grounds, for ejection from a post which he has filled with extraordinary distinction. According to a recent news report, Dr. Horne is to be replaced by Joseph P. Ray, a Louisville builder prominent in Republican politics in Kentucky. The report has not been officially confirmed. . . .

Counseling on race relations, especially in the field of housing, is a delicate and touchy undertaking. Urban redevelopment and low-cost housing projects often create tense racial situations which need to be dealt with wisely and sympathetically if they are not to erupt into dangerous violence, as they have on more than one occasion in recent years in Chicago, Miami and elsewhere. Dr. Horne has won wide confidence as a calm and resourceful and understanding counselor in these situations. We share the feeling expressed by a number of national organizations active in the field of race relations — the American Friends Service Committee, the American Jewish Committee and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People among them — that "to dismiss Dr. Horne would be a mischievous step backward that would go far to destroy the nonpolitical character of this technical service." The retention of Dr. Horne in his present post would be of itself, we believe, a contribution to better interracial understanding. (*Washington Post*, September 17).

PROGRESS

In The Army

More than 90 per cent of the colored troops in the Army are assigned to integrated units, according to a recent memorandum issued by the Army to Rep. Frances P. Bolton (R., Ohio) of Cleveland.

Signed by Col. R. C. Bing, a deputy chief of the army general staff, the memorandum declared that since the outbreak of the Korean war, the Army has undergone a radical change which has seen a "gradual" changeover from general segregation of colored troops to integration and "equal opportunity."

Highlights of the report, up to date as of May, 1953, included the following points:

There are 4,110 officers, 567 warrant officers and 200,074 enlisted men for a total of 204,184 colored men in the Army. Of this total 47 per cent are regular army personnel.

Colored officers hold the ranks of second lieutenant to full colonel. There are 218 regular army officers compared

to 126 in October, 1950. Of the total army personnel, colored troops comprise 13 per cent. They are 16 per cent of regular army enlisted men.

There are 13 colored cadets attending the U. S. Military Academy at West Point.

Colored women in the Army total 191 officers, (41 WAC, 144 nurses, 6 WMSC) and 1,198 enlisted. Highest ranking officer is lieutenant colonel. (Only the chief nurse and director of the WAC hold higher posts — the rank of colonel.)

Col. Bing explained the Army integration story as follows:

"The selection of personnel for army service either through enlistment, induction or re-enlistment is accomplished without regard to race. . . .

"Equal opportunities for advancement in the Army have resulted in the assignment of colored personnel to any army school for which they are qualified and to duties with any unit in which school training or civilian experience can be utilized." . . . (*Afro-American*, September 12).

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In The Navy

Robert B. Anderson, Secretary of the Navy, said . . . he had started a move to integrate the largely all-Negro stewards' branch of the Navy as part of a drive to eliminate all remaining forms of Navy segregation.

Mr. Anderson said in an interview that he had asked Vice Admiral James L. Holloway, Jr., chief of naval personnel, to "develop plans by which in that area (stewards) we may bring about an integrated type of service. . . .

"I am setting up as an objective the elimination of segregation in all areas where the Government owns the facilities — among civilian as well as uniformed personnel. . . .

"I would consider it one of the rewarding accomplishments of my administration. . . . if I could eliminate all barriers to complete integration without reflection on those of any race in the Navy."

The breakdown of racial segregation in the Navy, which helped start similar moves in the Army and Air Force, was started under James Forrestal when he was Secretary of the Navy. More recently Negro leaders have complained that the Navy was lagging behind the other services in moves to end segregation.

Chief areas for criticism have been the stewards' branch, composed largely of Negroes with some Filipinos and a handful of whites, and segregated civilian facilities in Southern bases. About half of all the Navy's 25,000 Negroes are in the stewards' branch, waiting on tables and caring for rooms of Navy officers. (*New York Times*, September 29).

FIFTH ANNUAL INSTITUTES

A fifth annual series of institutes on racial and cultural relations was inaugurated in July of this year when the West Coast Institute was convened July 13-17 at Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon. A second such institute was

held July 20-24 at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania. This was followed by a third which was convened August 3-7 at Eden Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri.

Approximately 100 persons from more than 20 states representing a dozen different denominations and other organizations interested in this area of concern participated in the study and discussion at the three institutes.

Dean of the institute held at Lincoln University was the Rev. Clifford Earle, of the Division of Social Education and Action, Board of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

The Rev. Galen R. Weaver, Director, Religion and Race, American Missionary Association, Congregational Christian Churches, was Dean of the institute held at Eden Seminary. The Assistant Dean at this institute was the Rev. Harold C. Letts, Secretary for Social Action, Board of Social Missions, United Lutheran Church in America.

Miss Isabelle M. Gates, Secretary, Christian Friendliness, Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society was Dean of the West Coast Institute, held at Lewis and Clark College.

These institutes are sponsored by the Interdenominational Committee for Co-operative Work in Racial and Cultural Relations. Chairman of this Committee is Dr. J. Oscar Lee, Executive Director of the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations, National Council of Churches, who also participated in leadership of the institutes at Lincoln University and Eden Seminary. With Dr. Lee at the Institute at Lincoln University was the Rev. William H. Vastine, who is an Associate Executive Director of the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations. The Department was represented by the Rev. Alfred S. Kramer at the West Coast Institute.

From year to year these institutes are planned, taking into consideration the suggestions for modification, improvement, etc., made by the delegates of the preceding year. In all three institutes this year delegates were asked to respond to three questions. For example, they were asked "What did you like best about the institute?" In an effort to gain the value of the immediate reaction of the delegates to the institute they were asked to respond to the question "What in the institute bothered you most?" The responses to this question would indicate to the planners, for another year, areas in which improvement might be made, as well as the areas which were not too successfully planned this year. Finally, the delegates were asked, "What would you suggest as ways and means for the improvement of the institute?" Suggestions in response to this question included such comments as:

" . . . more definitely planned program by the sponsoring group"

"more publicity among youth groups . . ."

" . . . it would be helpful if we had more opportunity to do role-playing, using a definite situation."

Responses to these questions become exceedingly helpful in the planning and programming for succeeding years.

PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE WEST

The National Bar Association focused attention on a sore spot of civil rights. In its recent meeting in New Orleans, the association adopted a resolution urging the governors of nine western states to call special sessions of their respective legislatures to enact strong civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination.

Until World War II the Negro population of these states was sparse; hence there was little need for laws for the protection of minority groups. Now with shift in trends and the great migrations to the West, tense situations have arisen which call for drastic action. Negroes are now travelling more often through these areas, and are finding increasing discrimination in the matter of lodging and eating places. The legislatures in these states which include Arizona, New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Montana, Utah, Idaho and Wyoming are not scheduled to meet until January or February of 1955.

The NBA has pointed out that if nothing is done before that time, the situation may be aggravated to an explosive point. (*Chicago Defender*, September 26).

INDIANS PROTEST

. . . President Eisenhower has signed two bills affecting Indians. One removes federal restrictions against the sale of liquor to Indians and leaves further action on the question to the states in which there are Indian reservations. The other . . . will hand civil and criminal jurisdiction over to the states having Indian reservations. . . .

It is on the signing of the second bill handing over to the states jurisdiction in civil and criminal offenses that organizations and persons concerned with the welfare of Indians disagree with Congress and the President. . . .

Immediately the Association on American Indian Affairs in New York, through its general counsel, Felix S. Cohen, wrote Mr. Eisenhower asking him to veto the bill. Mr. Cohen called the bill drastic in that it would subject reservation Indians to state and civil jurisdiction without their consent and without giving them a single opportunity to pass on its merits. . . .

The laws on civil and criminal jurisdiction to which most of the Indians are accustomed are as follows: The so-called 10 major crimes are punishable by federal law. Other offenses by Indians against Indians may be tried in their own tribal courts. But all criminal offenses committed on Indian reservations, whether by Indians or non-Indians, are punishable in federal courts in accordance with state statutes. . . .

This failure to solicit Indian views on the subject from the other tribes on such an extension of state civil and criminal jurisdiction, according to Mr. Cohen, is a reversal of well-established government policies and violates recent promises and long-standing moral obligations. The failure to allow sufficient time for all Indian tribes to become familiar with the bill and to make their opinions known is, according to Mr. Cohen, a serious breach

of good faith with hundreds of loyal American citizens. . . .

The President in signing the bill stated he had grave doubts as to the wisdom of certain of the provisions and that the failure to include in the provisions a requirement of full consultation in order to ascertain the wishes and the desires of the Indians was unfortunate. Therefore he stated that he is recommending that the next session of Congress amend the legislation to require such consultation with the Indians before the enactment of legislation turning them over to state law enforcement agencies.

If this is done, it is probable that the majority of the Indian tribes will oppose it. Courts of law are something many non-Indians far more experienced and better educated than the Indians approach with some trepidation. Many of them do not understand even simple English words and phrases let alone legal terms. It will take years of education and experience to fit them to understand legal proceedings and to turn some of their young men into tribal lawyers.

It is the opinion . . . in the Indian country . . . that the bill should not have been passed at this time. (*Christian Science Monitor*, August 24).

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER

A policy of no discrimination in employment is working satisfactorily in three major plants of the International Harvester company in southern communities, according to a case study of Negro employment in the South, sponsored by the National Planning Association Committee of the South.

International Harvester company has a policy of no discrimination, which has existed in written form as official company policy since 1919.

When it establishes a new plant, as it did at Louisville, Memphis and Evansville, Ind. — the three plants surveyed, it informs the local community, the business people and workers, of its policy.

To get started on an unsegregated basis, it makes sure that its managerial people, foremen and supervisors thoroughly understand the company's policy.

All applicants are permitted to come into a common waiting room. That is the first departure from the customary practice, particularly in areas like Memphis, . . .

White job applicants are told that they might find themselves working next to a colored employee and . . . given the opportunity at that time to decide whether that would be distasteful to them. Surprisingly few turn down work under that condition.

All employees are taken together in the orientation classes for new employees, with no segregation. Then, their job assignments are made on the same basis.

Upgrading and promotion to better jobs are carried out on the basis of seniority and ability. . . .

In releasing the report, H. Christian Sonne, chairman of the NPA Board, said:

"The basic premise of the Committee of the South has been that not only its own area, but the nation as a whole would gain from the full development of the South's great pool of untapped manpower, resources and markets.

"We need larger numbers of skilled and highly trained workers than we now have to make the best use of existing abilities of all its racial groups, to extend educational and training facilities and to improve employment opportunities — whether to cope with a national emergency or to assure that in peacetime the country can continue to increase its standards of living." . . .

The purpose of the study was to report objectively on the conditions under which colored and white workers are working together and what kind of changes in bi-racial employment patterns are taking place. . . .

The report states that all employees, whether colored or white, in the same job classification receive the same wages. . . . (*Chicago-Defender*, September 26).

BRIEFLY

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, diplomat who helped the United Nations bring peace in the Holy Land, will be installed as president of the American Political

Science Association during its annual meeting . . . September 10-12. . . .

Some 2,000 political scientists will attend the three-day meeting. Approximately 60 panel sessions will be held during the gathering. (*Christian Science Monitor*, September 10).

Everett Lee of Cleveland hopes to become America's first top flight Negro conductor. He (went) to Rome a year ago on a Fulbright Grant. . . .

Lee leaves Europe (soon) and one of his early stops will be Louisville, (Ky.) where he will conduct an orchestra in a special concert. . . . (*The Louisville Times*, September 3).

Hiroshi Miyamura, the only living Japanese-American to be awarded the Medal of Honor, was resting after an all-out welcome from his proud hometown (Gallup, N. M.) . . .

Sergeant Miyamura, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic rear-guard fight in Korea, fought in World War II with the 442nd. (*Christian Science Monitor*, September 10).

The Agriculture Department, in the face of a storm of southern protest, has backed away from its requirement that banks which make farm price support loans promise not to practice racial discrimination in employing personnel. . . .

The acrimony over the nondiscrimination clause began only recently when southerners discovered it has been contained in all lending agency agreements since May. . . .

Gov. James F. Byrnes of South Carolina, who backed General Eisenhower in the last presidential election, wrote the President August 27 saying many banks would refuse to sign statements containing the nondiscrimination clause. . . . (*Christian Science Monitor*, September 5).

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IT IS A SAD COMMENTARY ON OUR CIVILIZATION THAT WE'VE LEARNED TO SMASH THE ATOM BUT HAVE NOT SMASHED PREJUDICE.

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